As a result of the accident, 10 workers lost their lives and 12 sustained injuries.

(Source : J&K Minerals Ltd.)

(d) J&K Minerals Ltd. as well as Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) have ordered investigation into the cause of accident.

In addition to the compensation payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act and payment of Coal Mines Provident Fund and family pension under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Act, J&K Minerals have paid an ex-gratia of Rs. 25,000/- to legal heirs of each deceased worker and Rs. 5,000/- each to the injured worker. Besides, employment to one of the legal heir of the deceased has also been ordered.

State Government of Jammu and Kashmir have also announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 1 lakh to the legal heirs of each deceased worker and Rs 5,000/- each to the injured worker.

Source : J&K Minerals Ltd.)

Monitoring and Control on the Excess of Imports over Exports

4255. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up any executive machinery to monitor and control excess of imports over exports and to exercise constant vigilance to keep the imports and exports on a balanced scale;

(b) if so, the details of monitoring being undertaken in this regard;

(c) the main reasons for excess of imports over exports in general; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to substitute such imports by internally generated national resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, trade performance is observed by the Government as part of the overall macro economic management.

(c) Exports are dependent inter alia on international market conditions, export competitiveness of domestic industry, supportive infrastructure, policy framework etc. while imports are made as per requirement including that of the export sector

(d) Steps are taken from time to time which include inter alia changes in policies and procedures to provide export friendly enviornment and for efficient import substitution, incentives for quality improvements, involvement of the State Governments in export promotion, consultations with Trade and Industry etc.

[Translation]

Development of Textile Industry

4256. SHRI JAYSINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided assistance to encourage textile industry during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(c) the position of Gujarat in textile industry;

(d) the quantum of textile manufactured in the State; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage the exports of textile manufactured in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The Union Government has taken various measures to encourage the Textile Industry in the country, which is equality applicable to all states including Gujarat.

The Indian Textile industry comprises of various segements; namely will sector, powerloom, handloom etc. Depending on the needs of each segment of the industry policy interventions involving formulation of financial and administrative steps by the government for various segments is a continuous process keeping in mind the broad objectives laid down in the Textile policy 1985. The government have taken various steps from time to time to encourage textile production in each segment. These include;

Liberalisation of licensing provision; fiscal restructuring; permitting import of textile machinery under OGL; and reduction of custem duty on such imports; research and development activtics; setting up of laboratories facilities; simplification of quota system; setting up of BIFR to inquire into working of sick industrial units, and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, scheme for revival of mills; reserving certain items for manufacture by handloom sector only; by way of running Powerloom Services Centres, Computer Aided Design Centres; improving quality of textile products and boosting their value addition through various Textile Research Associations; removal of restrictions on the creation and expansion of capacity, subject only to locational guidelines; working on various programmes for the promotion on export of the various segments of the Indian Textile Industry through various Export Promotion Councils under M/o Textiles;

upgrading of testing facilities at the Textiles Committee and other Public Textile Laboratories to facilitate quick, affordable and reliable test result to the exporters; and promoting quality consciousness among to promote acceptability of Indian goods abroad.

(c) The State of Gujarat has a prominent position in the country. As far as the Textile Industry in concerned, it can be ranked as No. 3 in terms of the overall turnover in the Textile Industry.

(d) The quantum of production of spun yarn and cloth in the state of Gujarat during 1995-96 is given below :

Item	Production in Gujarat
Spun Yarn (Mn. Kg.)	183.7
Mill Cloth (Mn.sq. mtr.)	451.6

Information on the total cloth produced in Gujarat State is not available.

(e) Steps for promotion of exports is not taken separately for each State. However, in order to boost textile export, the Govt. have been taking a number of steps which include encouraging exporters to participate in Buyer-Seller meets, participation in fairs and exhibitions in major markets; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines; products development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

[English]

Fifth Pay Commission

4257. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high empowered Committee of Secretaries has been appointed to give their recommendations on the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details of members of the above committee;

(c) whether a meeting with the Joint Consultative Machinery was held on March 3, 1997 to seek their views for the implementation of the above report;

(d) if so, the outcome of the said meeting;

(e) the time fixed by the Government to submit the recommendations by the Committee of Secretaries;

(f) whether any proposal for the retirement age benefit is under consideration and that no employee will be discriminated; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the established procedure, an Empowered Committee is constituted to screen the recommendations of the Pay Commission. The Empowered Committee comprises of the following :

1.	Secretary, Deptt. of Expenditure	Chairman
2.	Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension	Member
3.	Secretary, Ministry of Defence	"
4.	Secretary, Deptt. of Revenue	"
5.	Secretary, Deptt. of Posts	"
6.	Secretary, Deptt. of Telecom.	"
7.	Secretary, Deptt. of Health	"
8.	Secretary, Deptt. of Sc. & Tech.	"
9.	Member (Staff), Railway Board	"
10.	Dy. Comptroller & Auditor General of India	"
11.	Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	"

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Staff Side of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery have suggested improvements in respect of certain recommendations of the Commission.

(e) The decisions will be taken as soon as feasible.

(f) and (g) The Commission, inter alia, has recommended increase in the age of retirement from 58 years to 60 years, except in respect of those employees who are on extension and the personnel of the Central Police Organisations and the Armed Forces. A decision on this recommendation will be taken alongwith other recommendations.

Assistance to Industries by Financial Institutions

4258. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of assistance sanctioned and released by the Financial and investment institutions to the industries in backward and under developed areas of Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of units apply for these loans every year; and

(c) the details of guidelines adopted for considering the applications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As per information provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the details of financial assistance